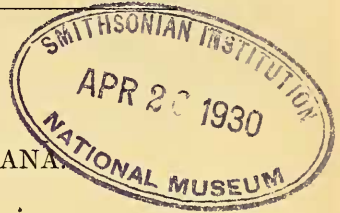


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW WEASEL FROM LOUISIANA

BY E. RAYMOND HALL.

In a study of American weasels, circumstances require the preliminary description, at the present time, of the following new form. The name *arthuri* is proposed as a token of appreciation to Mr. Stanley Clisby Arthur, Director of Wild Life, Louisiana Department of Conservation, who not only secured the type specimen now in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, but all the other known specimens of this interesting new weasel.

Mustela noveboracensis arthuri, new subspecies.

Type.—Male, subadult, skull and skin; No. 37515, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Remy, St. James Parish, Louisiana; December 15, 1925; collected by Stanley C. Arthur.

Diagnosis.—A member of the *noveboracensis* group. Males distinguished from those of *Mustela noveboracensis noveboracensis* (Emmons) and *M. n. notia* (Bangs) by transverse and longitudinal convexity (rather than flatness and concavity respectively) of dorsal outline of skull; greater inflation of brain case anteriorly; uniformly spreading zygomatic arches; and slightly darker color, especially on the forehead and nose, of winter coat. Female unknown.

Range.—Known only from St. James and Assumption parishes, Louisiana.

Remarks.—Due to the scarcity of specimens from the southern part of the Mississippi Valley, evidence of intergradation, or lack of it, with geographically adjacent races is had in only one case. A skull-only, No. 1302, U. S. Nat. Mus., from Fort Smith, Arkansas, has a more inflated brain case anteriorly, more evenly spreading zygomatic arches, and a more convex outline than specimens of *noveboracensis* from Iowa, and suggests intergradation of *arthuri* with *noveboracensis*.

The single skin-only from Assumption Parish has not assumed the full winter coat and the underparts have a yellowish tinge as in *notia*. The

other two skins are in full winter pelage and, with the exception of the posterior half in one, have white underparts.

Although the color of the Louisiana Weasel differs only slightly from that of *noveboracensis* and *notia*, and the size, in so far as can be determined from the few specimens, not at all, the skull is highly distinctive. The evenly spreading zygomatic arches, the inflation of the brain case anteriorly, and the convex outline of the skull dorsally stand in marked contrast to the abruptly spreading posterior root of the zygomatic arch, and the laterally constricted and dorsally concave interorbital region in *noveboracensis* and *notia*.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 4. All from Louisiana. St. James Parish: the type, as above, and one skin-only in the collection of Stanley C. Arthur; Convent, one skull-only in U. S. Nat. Mus. Assumption Parish, near Lake Verret, one skin-only in collection of Stanley C. Arthur.